

**PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for performing handoff within a mobile communication system, the mobile communication system having at least one first communication device for communicating with a plurality of second communication devices (SCD), comprising the steps of:
  - (a) transmitting from at least one of the SCDs to the first communication device a handoff list of SCDs to which the first communication device is permitted to handoff when in a system access state; and
  - (b) transmitting a channel assignment message to the at least one first communication device from each of the SCDs in the handoff list.
2. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein a channel assignment message transmitted from each SCD in the handoff list includes a channel assignment message to be used only for communicating with the respective transmitting SCD.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting to the first communication device a neighbor list of SCDs that are located in the geographic vicinity of the first communication device.
5. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein step (b) is followed by the step of performing a handoff of the first communication device from one of the SCDs to another one of the SCDs.
6. (Original) An apparatus for performing handoff within a mobile communication system, comprising:

a first communication device (FCD);

a plurality of second communication devices (SCDs) for communicating with the FCD, wherein at least one of the SCDs transmits to the FCD a handoff list of other SCDs to which the FCD is permitted to handoff when in a system access state, and wherein each SCD in the handoff list transmits to the FCD a channel assignment message for communicating with that respective SCD included in the handoff list.

7. (Cancelled)